

Infection Control

Standard

The physiotherapist complies with current **infection prevention and control** best practices to support the health and safety of clients, health-care providers, themselves, and others.

Expected outcome

Clients can expect that the measures in place for infection prevention and control during the provision of physiotherapy services comply with applicable legislation, regulatory requirements, standards, guidelines, and best practices.

Performance expectations

The physiotherapist must

- A. Acquire education, training, and proficiency regarding best practices of infection prevention and control relevant to their practice.
- B. Apply infection prevention and control techniques and current best practices relevant to their physiotherapy practice consistently and effectively. This includes:
 - i. Conducting a **Point of Care Risk Assessment** prior to each client interaction.
 - ii. Employing the **personal protective equipment** indicated by the Point of Care Risk Assessment.
 - iii. Completing effective hand hygiene before and after each client interaction.
 - iv. Practicing effective respiratory hygiene.
- C. Ensure all physiotherapy spaces and equipment are cleaned and/or disinfected prior to client use, according to the appropriate infection prevention and control standards/policies and manufactures recommendations.
- D. Dispose of devices and materials according to best practices and established protocols.
- E. Follow manufacturer's specifications, relevant legislation, and Provincial Department of Health standards and policies for the use, cleaning, disinfection and reprocessing of equipment and devices.¹

- F. Documents details of reprocessing and sterilization of reusable **critical and semi- critical medical equipment** including parameters used. Retains this documentation for 5 years.
- G. Be aware of and fulfill their legislated responsibilities regarding worksite safety, in accordance with occupational health and safety legislation.

Related Standards:

Assessment, Diagnosis, Treatment
Risk Management and Safety

Definitions

Infection prevention and control refers to measures practiced by health-care personnel intended to prevent spread, transmission and acquisition of infectious agents or pathogens between clients, from health-care workers to clients, and from clients to health-care workers in the health-care setting.

Point of Care Risk Assessment (PoCRA) is a routine practice that should be conducted by a physiotherapist before every client interaction to assess the likelihood of exposing themselves and/or others to infectious agents. The Point of Care Risk Assessment informs the physiotherapist's use of PPE and other infection control measures.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) refers to items in place for infection prevention and control, such as masks, gloves, gowns, and goggles.

Critical Medical Equipment: devices that enter sterile tissues, including the vascular system. E.g. dry needling/acupuncture needles, IMS needle plunger, debridement tools

Semi-Critical Medical Equipment: devices that come into contact with intact mucous membranes or non-intact skin, but do not penetrate them. E.g. Vaginal speculums, Blood Pressure Cuffs used on non-intact skin.